

Chapter 4

Comments and Coordination

Early and continuing coordination with the general public and appropriate public agencies is an essential part of the environmental process to determine the scope of environmental documentation, the level of analysis, potential impacts and mitigation measures, and related environmental requirements. Agency consultation and public participation for this project have been accomplished through a variety of formal and informal methods, including: project development team meetings, interagency coordination meetings, and a public scoping meeting. This chapter summarizes the results of Caltrans' efforts to fully identify, address, and resolve project-related issues through early and continuing coordination.

4.1 Scoping Process

CEQA specifically requires that when one or more state agencies will be a responsible or trustee agency, a notice of preparation (NOP) must be filed with the State Clearinghouse (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15082 [d]). The NOP is provided to appropriate state agencies and invites them to offer comments during the scoping period, which lasts a minimum of 30 days following the filing of the NOP.

4.1.1 Notice of Preparation

The NOP for the proposed project was published on May 16, 2008. It was filed with the State Clearinghouse and sent to the appropriate elected officials, agencies, and interested parties.

4.1.2 Scoping Meeting

A scoping meeting was held on June 5, 2008, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Solano County Administration Building, at 675 Texas Street in Fairfield.

A number of means were used to inform the public of the scoping process and the public open house scoping meeting. A public notice was distributed to the project mailing list, which included property owners, elected officials, city staff, special interest organizations, and neighborhood groups. Caltrans and the STA mailed a letter to agency representatives and elected officials.

Information pertaining to the scoping process and the public open house scoping meeting also appeared on the STA website, at <http://www.solanolinks.com>.

A display advertisement announcing the scoping period and the public open house scoping meeting was placed in the *Daily Republic* on Friday, May 16, 2008.

The scoping meeting was organized as an open house with information stations on the following subjects: participating agencies and roles; the project background, description, and location; the

purpose of scoping; environmental issues; an overview of the environmental review process; the anticipated project schedule and funding; and how to provide comments. At the stations, attendees could ask questions and discuss the project with technical staff from Caltrans and the STA project team. Although no formal presentation and question-and-answer period were conducted, participants were encouraged to fill out and submit comment sheets at the meeting or by mail until the close of business on Monday, June 16, 2008.

4.1.3 Summary of Concerns

There were three written comments submitted at the June 5 meeting. Two comments addressed property acquisition, and one addressed safety and emergency response issues.

Property acquisition issues were raised by two members of the public. They noted that a property adjacent to the project site is landlocked, without formal access rights due to a previous land acquisition by the state of California and that the proposed project would make this situation worse. They suggested that the state should purchase the land surrounding the landlocked parcel to improve this situation prior to the relocation of the truck scales.

A representative of the Cordelia Fire Protection District raised issues pertaining to safety and emergency response. He suggested that the project design should incorporate an area for hazmat mitigation that allows for a 500-foot separation from human-occupied buildings and that the buildings should include sprinklers and the facility should be supplied with a hydrant capable of 1,250 gallons per minute (gpm) at a minimum of 20 pounds per square inch (psi) residual for 120 minutes.

Five letters with written comments responding to the NOP were received. These letters came from FEMA, the NMFS, the DOC, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and the California RWQCB, San Francisco Bay Region. Comments, for the most part, outline agency responsibilities and procedures and subjects that should be addressed in this EIR/EA.